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DOCTRINES AND FRACTURES

Introduction to the Political Climate

As of Monday, January 5, 2026, the New York Times has renewed its narrative regarding a supposed fracture within the MAGA movement. This commentary follows the recent capture of Venezuela's de facto leader, Nicolás Maduro. The mainstream media appears to be utilizing psychological warfare techniques to encourage division and voter disengagement. By framing foreign policy decisions as a betrayal of leadership, these operations aim to create a vacuum of confusion and fatigue among supporters.

The Strategy of Color Revolutions

A core tactic in color-revolution strategy involves identifying latent wedge issues—such as foreign wars, corruption, or national legitimacy—and amplifying them to create social friction. The goal is not to persuade individuals to switch political sides but to batter them into staying home, allowing "astroturfed" protests to fill the resulting political vacuum.

Historical precedents for this include the 2014 Maidan demonstrations in Ukraine, where U.S. officials were observed directly engaging with protesters during a period of intense social conflagration. Following that intervention, Ukraine's democratically elected, pro-Russian government was overthrown, leading to over a decade of conflict. There are concerns that similar destabilization techniques are currently being applied to internal American politics.

Analyzing the Venezuela Operation

The New York Times has highlighted dissent from figures such as Representative Thomas Massie, Marjorie Taylor Greene, and commentator Candace Owens to suggest a rift over the administration's actions in Venezuela. Critics argue that the move contradicts campaign promises to avoid nation-building or new foreign wars. However, the administration's position is that the targeted capture of an indicted criminal with a $50 million U.S. bounty does not constitute a "forever war" or an invasion.

Key reasons for the operation include:

1. **Direct National Interests: Venezuela is in the U.S. hemisphere and directly impacts American security through the export of drugs and the presence of violent cartels.**
2. **Economic Retribution: The Caracas regime has previously seized billions in U.S. oil assets.**
3. **Security Threats: The regime has invited hostile foreign powers, such as China and Russia, to establish a presence near the U.S. coast.**
4. **Election Integrity: There is evidence suggesting Venezuelan involvement in interfering with the 2020 U.S. election.**

The Donroe Doctrine and America First

Contrary to media claims that the administration's foreign policy is random, the strategy is rooted in the recently published National Security Strategy (NSS). This document explicitly revives the Monroe Doctrine, which posits that the United States will remain out of European affairs while aggressively defending the Western Hemisphere from foreign intervention.

This "Donroe Doctrine" frames the capture of Maduro not as global adventurism but as a unilateral sphere-of-influence defense strategy. The administration contends that "America First" does not mandate

total isolationism but rather a focus on domestic and hemispheric security.

Global Strategic Synchronicity

The beginning of 2026 has seen a coordinated shift in geopolitical momentum across three major theaters:

1. Iran’s Economic Crisis The Iranian rial has experienced a severe collapse, losing 20% of its value in December alone. This has triggered a massive affordability crisis, with food prices rising over 70%, leading to widespread protests demanding regime change. President Trump has signaled support for the protesters, stating the U.S. is "locked and loaded" to prevent retaliation against them.

2. Ukraine’s Leadership Shift In Ukraine, President Zelensky has replaced his Chief of Staff with Kyrylo Budanov, the former head of military intelligence. Budanov is widely recognized as having deep ties to U.S. intelligence, having been trained by the CIA and treated at Walter Reed Hospital. This shift suggests that key Ukrainian decisions may now be brokered through direct CIA channels, potentially sidelining European influence.

3. Venezuelan Resolution The conclusion of the Maduro standoff has sent a message regarding U.S. reach and resolve within its own hemisphere.

Conclusion: Strategic Impatience

The administration’s current foreign policy is characterized by strategic impatience rather than expansion. Instead of engaging in open-ended conflicts, the focus is on "compression"—rapidly resolving inherited crises to refocus attention on domestic priorities. The NSS explicitly states the intent to negotiate an expeditious end to hostilities in Ukraine and to deprioritize Middle Eastern involvement unless direct U.S. interests are threatened.

By shortening timelines and collapsing ambiguities, the administration seeks to bring existing hostilities to a close quickly, adhering to a "clean-up" model of international engagement rather than one of global loitering.